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(c) A free grant of Rs. 8,670 was given to 289 persons at the rate of Rs. 30 each for reconstructing their damaged houses. A sum of Rs. 3,000 was also sanctioned from the Cyclone Relief Fund for the purchase and distribution of handloom clothes to the needy victims. Milk powder received from the hospital was supplied to both adults and children. Fifty bags of rice received from some charitable persons in the neighbourhood were also distributed to the victims. Sarees and dhoties, etc., worth Rs. 1,000 were also bought for distribution from the funds collected from the local philanthropic persons and institutions. Action has also been taken by the local Revenue Officers for granting loans for re-building and repairing the burnt houses.

* 2366 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the relief given by the Government to the people who lost their homes in the fire accident at Rayapuram in May 1955;

(b) how many people were rendered homeless; and

(c) whether any permanent funds are placed at the disposal of the Collector of Madras apart from the Mayor's Relief Fund?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) (i) A sum of Rs. 570 was granted in cash by the Collector of Madras to the victims of the fire accident towards their immediate requirements of food, etc.;

(ii) a sum of Rs. 500 was given from the Madras State Cyclone Relief Fund for the purchase of handloom cloth, sarees, dhoties, towels, etc.; and

(iii) a sum of Rs. 500 was contributed by the Governor of Madras and Rs. 220 by the Corporation of Madras and the amounts were made available for the purchase of empty tar barrels to reconstruct the huts affected by the fire.

(b) Thirty-eight families consisting of 168 persons including children.

(c) No. No amount from the Mayor's Relief Fund was placed at the disposal of the Collector.

Grievances of workers in the electricity department

* 2367 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the grievances of the workers of the electricity department, contained in the petition presented through the Assembly during the Budget debate on the Electricity Demand on 16th March 1955, have been examined by the Government; and

(b) if so, what demands have been conceded?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) & (b) The Chief Engineer's report has been received. The matter is now under the consideration of the Government.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : இதன் மீது ஒரு முடிவு எடுக்க இன்னும் எவ்வளவு காலம் ஆகுமென்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : I cannot give any definite period within which the work will be done. But, I may, however, state that the matter is being expeditiously looked into.

Tiruchirappalli Ex-servicemen Co-operative Motor Transport Society

*2368 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many times the Tiruchirappalli Ex-Servicemen Co-operative Motor Transport Society, Limited, No. Ex-S-22, applied to Regional Transport Authority, Tiruchirappalli, for (i) plying buses (new) on new routes and (ii) for extension of existing routes, during the years 1951–54;

(*b*) how many permits were granted to the Society; and

(*c*) how many permits were given to private persons during the said period?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) The Tiruchirappalli Ex-Servicemen Co-operative Motor Transport Society, Limited, Ex-S-22 applied four times for grant of fresh permits and three times for extension of existing routes to the Regional Transport Authority, Tiruchirappalli.

(*b*) Two fresh permits were granted to the Society.

(*c*) Twenty-nine permits were granted to other operators.

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Sir, in issuing permits to these motor transport societies, may I know whether any preference was shown to individual owners or private operators as against these Societies and if so, why? May I also know whether any representation was made direct to the Government expressing grievances in the grant of new permits?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Sir, not only in Tiruchirappalli district, but in other districts also, due consideration was given to the applications received from the Ex-servicemen Co-operative Societies. All the permits are granted in accordance with certain rules framed under the Act. I do not think that any special preference has been given to anybody.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி மாஜி ராணுவத்தினர் கூட்டுறவு மோட்டார் ட்ரான்ஸ்போர்ட் சொஸைடிக்கு இரண்டு பர்மிட்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டதாக மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்கிருர்கள். இந்த இரண்டும் ரூட் நீடிப்பு பர்மிட்களா ? அல்லது புது பர்மிட்களா ?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : இரண்டும் புது பர்மிட்கள்